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# Glossary

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# GLOSSARY

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**Account:** A record of public funds showing receipts, disbursements, and the balance.

**Accounting Basis:** The basis of accounting determines rules for recognition of income, expense, assets, liabilities and equity (cash basis and accrual basis are the most widely known). The City of Norfolk operates on a budgetary basis under which most expenditure liabilities are recognized when incurred and most revenues are recognized when earned and billed. Adjustments from this budgetary basis are done for financial reporting purposes to conform to Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP).

**Accrual Accounting:** A generally accepted accounting method where revenue is recognized when earned and expenses when incurred. These revenues and expenses are recorded at the end of an accounting period even if cash has not been received or paid.

**Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA):** Federal legislation that prohibits discrimination and ensures equal opportunity for persons with disabilities in employment, state and local government services, public accommodations, commercial facilities, and transportation.

**Average Daily Membership (ADM):** ADM is the total days in membership for all students over the school year divided by the number of days school was in session. This number is used by the state to calculate annual funding levels for local public schools.

**Ad Valorem tax:** A tax based upon the assessed value of real estate or personal property.

**Amortization:** Spreading out the cost of an intangible asset or debt over the useful life of the asset.

**Annual Plan:** A plan that identifies the annual funding of the city's priority community development projects and activities as outlined in the five-year Consolidated Plan.

**Appropriation:** An expenditure authorization granted by the City Council to incur obligations for specific purposes. Appropriations are usually limited to amount, purpose and time.

**Approved Budget:** The budget as formally adopted by City Council with legal appropriations for the upcoming fiscal year.

**Assessed Valuation:** The estimated dollar value placed upon real and personal property by the City Real Estate Assessor and Commissioner of the Revenue, respectively, as the basis for levying property taxes. Real property is required to be assessed at full market value. Varying methodologies are used for assessment of defined classes of personal property to ensure uniformity and approximate fair market value.

**Balanced budget:** A budget in which current expenditures are supported by current revenues.

**Bond indenture:** The formal agreement between a group of bond holders, acting through a trustee, and the issuer as to the term and security for the debt.

**Bond Rating:** In rating municipalities for the issuance of general obligation debt, credit rating agencies (Standard and Poor's, Moody's, Fitch) consider factors that are considered especially relevant to a government's "capacity and willingness" to repay its debt: The local economic base, including local employment, taxes, and demographics (for example, age, education, income level, and skills of the local population); Financial performance and flexibility, including accounting and reporting methods, revenue and expenditure structure and patterns, annual operating and budget performance, financial leverage and equity position, budget and financial planning, and contingency financial obligations, such as pension liability funding; Debt burden; and Administration, including local autonomy and discretion regarding financial affairs, background and experience of key administrative officials, and frequency of elections. Bond ratings impact the interest rate and the cost of debt service in the operating budget.

**Bonds:** A type of security sold to finance capital improvement projects. With "general obligation" bonds, the full faith and credit of the city, through its taxing authority, guarantee the principal and interest payments. The City of Norfolk has issued water and parking revenue bonds for which repayment is pledged from the revenues of those systems.

**Budget:** A policy setting document that outlines a financial plan for a specified period of time (fiscal year) that matches all planned revenues with expenditures for various municipal services.

**Budget Transfer:** An administrative means to move budget resources from one budget account to another.

**Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR):** The official annual financial report of the city. It includes financial statements prepared in conformity with GAAP and is organized into a financial reporting pyramid. It also includes supporting schedules necessary to demonstrate compliance with finance-related legal and contractual provisions, required supplementary information, extensive introduction material and illustrative information about the city.

**Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System:** Computer systems supporting the Emergency Operations Center 911 response service areas as well as other areas of public safety.

**Computer Aided Design and Drafting (CADD) System:** Computer systems with input-tools for the purpose of streamlining drafting, documentation and design processes.

**Capital Lease:** A direct substitute for purchase of an asset with borrowed money. It is a series of payments in return for use of an asset for a specified period of time. It transfers substantially all the benefits and risks inherent in the ownership of the property to the lessee.

**Capital Outlay:** Expenditures that result in the acquisition of or addition to fixed assets. Fixed assets generally are purchased from the equipment appropriation category to facilitate the maintenance of the fixed assets inventory.

**Capital Projects:** Projects for the purchase or construction of capital assets. Typically, a capital project encompasses a purchase of land and/or the construction of a building or facility.

**Comprehensive Annual Performance Evaluation Report (CAPER):** The CAPER is the annual report prepared annually in compliance with grant funding requirements to the federal Department of Housing and Urban

Development (HUD) for the Community Development Block Grant program, the HOME Investment Partnership Program and the Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) program.

**Categorical Aid:** Revenue received from the state or federal government designated for specific use by the local government. Examples of state categorical aid are Basic School Aid funds and the state's share of public assistance payments. An example of federal categorical aid is Impacted Area Aid grants that are to be used for education.

**Community Development Block Grant (CDBG):** A federal funding source that allows local officials and residents flexibility in designing their own programs within a wide-range of eligible activities. The goal of the CDBG program is to encourage more broadly conceived community development projects, and expand housing opportunities for people living in low and moderate-income households.

**Central Appropriation:** Programs and services the city provides not directly linked to a specific department, such as employee benefits, risk management, and transfers to other departments.

**Charges for Service:** Fees charged for various government operations that are based on a cost recovery model. Examples include garbage fees, sanitation and waste removal fees, parking fees, water fees, and storm water fees.

**Children in Need of Services (CHINS):** Youth are referred by, but not limited to parents and schools for diversionary services such as family counseling, anger management, truancy prevention, and in some cases temporary residential placements. The goal is to provide services that would result in behavior modification to avoid entry into the juvenile justice system.

**Children in Need of Supervision (CHINSUP):** Youth placed on court-ordered, supervision after having received diversionary services. Court-ordered, community-based services may be residential or non-residential.

**Capital Improvement Plan (CIP):** A five year plan developed to guide spending for capital projects such as, but not limited to buildings, parks, streets, and their financing sources. The Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) budget is adopted as a one-year appropriation as part of the five-year to authorize expenditures for the projects in the first year of the plan.

**Community Development Fund:** A fund that accounts for federal entitlement funds received under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds support public improvements and redevelopment and conservation activities within targeted neighborhoods and are developed as part of the Annual Plan.

**Compensated Absences:** A liability for vested vacation and sick leave benefits for employees recorded as general long-term obligations.

**Component Units:** Legally separate entities which are part of the city's operations. Component units are The School Board of the City of Norfolk, The Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority, and The City of Norfolk Retirement Board.

**Consolidated Plan:** A three or five-year plan describing a community's needs, resources, priorities, and proposed activities to be undertaken with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The Consolidated Plan must include opportunities for resident input and is updated annually.

**Constitutional Officers:** Elected officials who head local offices as directed by the Constitution of Virginia. There are five constitutional officers in Norfolk with partial state funding coordinated by the State Compensation Board: the Commissioner of Revenue, the City Treasurer, the Clerk of the Circuit Court, the Commonwealth's Attorney and the Sheriff.

**Contingent Fund:** A budgetary account set-aside for use by the City Manager in dealing with emergencies or unforeseen expenditures.

**Contractual Service:** Legal agreement between the city and an outside entity providing services that are mutually agreed and have binding terms.

**Debt Service:** The annual payment of principal and interest on the city's bonded indebtedness.

**Deficit:** The excess of an entity's or fund's liabilities over its assets (see Fund Balance). The excess of expenditures or expenses over revenues during a single budget year.

**Depreciation:** Expiration in the service life of capital assets attributable to wear and tear, deterioration, action of the physical elements, inadequacy or obsolescence. The portion of a capital asset which is charged as an expense during a particular period for reporting purposes in proprietary funds. The capital outlay, rather than the periodic depreciation expense, is recorded under the modified accrual basis of budgeting and accounting.

**Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ):** The state agency dedicated to protecting the environment of Virginia in order to promote the health and well-being of the citizens of the Commonwealth.

**Derelict Structure:** A residential or nonresidential structure, that might endanger the public's safety or welfare, and has been vacant; boarded up; and not lawfully connected to electric, water, or sewer service from a utility service provider for a continuous period in excess of six months.

**Direct Turnover (DTO) Transactions:** Non-stock items ordered and turned over directly to customers. Items ordered are not a part of inventory.

**Effectiveness:** The degree to which goals, objectives and outcomes are achieved.

**Efficiency:** A measurement of an organization's performance based on operational outputs as measured by a comparison of production with cost.

**Emergency Communications Center (ECC):** The Emergency Communications Center serves as a central point to provide timely, accurate and critical 24-hour communications with all field units (police, fire and other emergency services).

**Emergency Operations Center (EOC):** A central command and control facility responsible for carrying out the principles of emergency preparedness and emergency management, or disaster management functions at a strategic level in an emergency situation to ensure the continuity of operations during an emergency.

**Encumbrance:** An obligation against appropriated funds in the form of a purchase order, contract, salary commitment or other reservation of available funds.

**Enterprise Funds:** A separate fund used to account for operations financed and operated similar to private business enterprises. The cost expenses, including depreciation of providing goods or services to the general public on a continuing basis are to be financed or recovered primarily through user charges.

**Expenditure:** Where accounts are kept on the accrual or modified accrual basis of accounting, the cost of goods received or services rendered, whether cash payment has been made or not. Where accounts are kept on a cash basis, expenditure is recognized only when the cash payment is made.

**Fiduciary Funds:** Funds used to account for resources held for the benefit of parties outside the city. The fiduciary funds include the city's pension trust fund, the Commonwealth of Virginia agency fund and the miscellaneous agency fund.

**Financial Policy:** The city's policy in respect to taxes, spending, and debt management as related to the provision of city services, programs and capital investment.

**Fines and Forfeitures:** Revenue received by the local government from court fines, forfeitures, and parking fines.

**Fiscal Year (FY):** A 12-month period the annual operating budget applies to. At the end of the period, the city determines its financial position and results of its operations. The city's fiscal year is July 1 through June 30.

**Fixed Assets:** A long-term tangible piece of property a firm owns and uses in the production of its income and is not expected to be consumed or converted into cash any sooner than one year's time. Buildings, real estate, equipment and furniture are examples of fixed assets.

**Fleet Management Fund:** A fund used to provide operating departments with maintenance, repair and service of the city's fleet of vehicles, heavy equipment, and miscellaneous machinery.

**Freedom of Information Act (FOIA):** State statute ensuring that residents of the Commonwealth have access to public records in the custody of a public body, its officers, and employees; and free entry to meetings of public bodies wherein the business of the people is being conducted. All public records and meetings shall be presumed open, unless an exemption is properly invoked.

**Fringe Benefits:** Employee benefits, in addition to salary, which may be paid in full or in part by the city or sponsored for employee participation at their individual expense. Some benefits, such as Social Security and Medicare (FICA), unemployment insurance, workers' compensation, and others are required by law. Other benefits, such as health, dental and life insurance are not mandated by law but are offered to employees by the city as part of their total compensation.

**Full-Time Equivalent (FTE):** The amount of time a position has been budgeted for in the amount of time a permanent, full-time employee normally works a year. Most full-time employees are paid for 2,080 hours a year. A position that has been budgeted to work less than full-time will work the number of hours which equate to that budgeted FTE amount; for example, a half FTE budgeted position can work 40 hours a week for six months, or 20 hours a week for one year.

**Fund:** An independent fiscal and accounting entity with a self-balancing set of accounts recording its assets, liabilities, fund balances/retained earnings, and revenues and expenditures/expenses.

**Fund Balances:** In the context of the city's budget discussions, fund balance refers to the undesignated General Fund Balance. This is the accumulated total of all prior years' actual General Fund revenues in excess of expenditures not appropriated by City Council and has not been designated for other uses. Maintaining a prudent level of undesignated General Fund balance is critical to ensuring that the city is able to cope with financial emergencies and fluctuations in revenue cycles. The General Fund balance also provides working capital during temporary periods when expenditures exceed revenues. The undesignated General Fund balance is analogous to the retained earnings of proprietary funds.

**GEM Program:** A city initiative operating under the guidelines of Commonwealth of Virginia's blight eradication legislation (VA Codes 58.1-3970.1 and 58.1-3965), which allows cities to acquire private property where nuisance abatement liens and/or delinquent taxes were not paid by their owners. The GEM Program acquires slum and blighting properties in the community to provide opportunities for redevelopment and revitalization of Norfolk's neighborhoods.

**General Fund:** The operating fund that accounting for all revenues and expenditures not accounted for in specific purpose funds. It finances the regular day-to-day operations of the city with taxes, fees, and other revenue sources.

**Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP):** The common set of accounting principles, standards, and procedures that are used to complete financial statements.

**General Obligation Bonds:** Bonds pledging the full faith and credit of the city.

**Geographic Information System (GIS):** A system used to capture, manage, analyze, and display all forms of geographically referenced information. A team of employees is responsible for the design and deployment of this web-based application displaying information at the street, neighborhood, and planning district levels.

**Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB 34):** A statement establishing the financial report standards for state and local governments. The financial statements should consist of management's discussion and analysis, basic financial statements, notes to the financial statements and supplementary information.

**Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB 54):** A statement establishing changes to the fund balance classifications and governmental fund type definitions.

**Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA):** An organization founded to support the advancement of governmental accounting, auditing and financial reporting.

**Goal:** A long-range desirable development attained by time phased objectives and designed to carry out a strategy.

**Government Funds:** Funds used to account for tax-supported activities. There are six different types of governmental funds: the general fund, special revenue funds, debt service funds, capital project funds, capital projects funds, and permanent funds. Government funds are reported using the current financial resources and the modified accrual basis of accounting.

**Global Position System (GPS):** A system that providing specially coded satellite signals that can be processed in a GPS receiver, enabling the receiver to compute position, velocity and time. GPS is funded by and controlled by the



U. S. Department of Defense (DOD). While there are many thousands of civil users of GPS world-wide, the system was designed for and is operated by the U. S. military.

**Grant:** A cash award given by a government to a public agency in a lower level of government or special recipient for a specified purpose. The two major forms of grants are Block and Discretionary or Categorical. Block grants are awarded primarily to general-purpose governments to distribute according to formulas established in the law to be used for any locally determined activities falling within the functional purpose of the grant as stated in the law. Discretionary or categorical grants can only be used for a specific purpose and are limited to narrowly defined projects or activities.

**Grants Fund:** A fund established to account for the receipt and disbursement of revenue from such sources as federal and state agencies, adjacent municipalities, and city matching funds. Individual grants, which typically have project periods distinct from the city's fiscal year, are appropriated by City Council separately when ready for application approval.

**Healthcare Fund:** A fund established to account for the receipt and disbursement of revenue from the Norfolk Health Consortium members, employees and retirees for payments of claims, administrative costs and other expenses related to healthcare.

**Insurance:** A contract to pay a premium in return for which the insurer will pay compensation in certain eventualities such as fire, theft, motor accident. The premiums are calculated so that, on average, they are sufficient to pay compensation for the policyholders who will make a claim together with a margin to cover administration cost and profit. In effect, insurance spreads the risk so that the loss by policyholder is compensated at the expense of all those who insure against it.

**Internal Service Funds:** Funds accounting for the financing of goods and services supplied to other funds of the city and other governmental units on a cost-reimbursement basis. The city's Fleet Management operates as an internal service fund.

**Key Goals and Objectives:** A concise presentation of departmental outcome and/or efficiency goals and objectives for the budgeted fiscal year.

**Legal Debt Margin:** Limits how much debt an entity can issue. Article VII, Section 10 of the Virginia Constitution states: "No city or town shall issue any bonds or other interest-bearing obligations which, including existing indebtedness, shall at any time exceed ten percent of the assessed valuation of real estate in the city or town subject to taxation, as shown by the last preceding assessment of taxes."

**Liability Insurance:** Protection against risk of financial loss due to a civil wrong resulting in property damage or bodily injury.

**Line Item:** An account representing a specific object of expenditure. Line items are commonly referred to as the budget detail and account for the inputs related to an activity process or service.

**Litigation:** To carry on a legal contest by judicial process.

**Local Composite Index (LCI):** The Commonwealth's of Virginia's established formula to measure a locality's ability to fund public education. It determines each division's state and local share of Standards of Quality (SOQ) costs. LCI is used as a proxy to determine the "wealth" of a school division and its ability to pay for public education. It measures each local government's ability to generate revenue. Values range from below .2000 to .8000. The higher LCI, the more the locality has to provide support to public schools. For example, a division with a LCI value of .3000 pays 30 percent of the calculated cost of public education while the state pays 70 percent.

**Long-term Goals:** Identified expectations the organization has targeted to reach over a time period greater than three years.

**Maintenance:** The act of keeping capital assets in a state of good repair. It includes preventative maintenance, normal periodic repairs, replacement of parts or structural components, and other activities needed to maintain the asset to provide normal services and achieve its optimal life.

**Major Fund:** Funds whose revenue, expenditures/expenses, assets, or liabilities are at least 10 percent of the total for their fund category (governmental or enterprise) and 5 percent of the aggregate of all governmental and enterprise funds in total. Major funds are reported as a separate column in the basic fund financial statements and subject to a separate opinion in the independent auditor's report.

**Managed Competition:** A process that allows government to test the market for improved service delivery and pricing options by allowing both public and private entities to compete for a contract.

**Materials, Supplies and Repairs:** A budget category that includes expenditures for supplies, contracted services, and equipment maintenance.

**Modified Accrual Basis:** The basis of accounting under which transactions are recognized when they become both measurable (i.e. an amount can be determined) and available (i.e. able to liquidate liabilities of the current period)

**Net assets:** Total assets minus total liabilities of an individual or entity.

**Network Infrastructure:** In information technology and on the internet, infrastructure is the physical hardware used to interconnect computers and users. Infrastructure includes the transmission media, including telephone lines, cable television lines, and satellites and antennas, and also the routers, aggregators, repeaters, and other devices that control transmission paths. Infrastructure also includes the software used to send, receive, and manage the signals that are transmitted.

**New Measure:** A performance measurement the city has not captured or reported upon in previous years.

**Norfolk Juvenile Detention Center (NJDC):** A short-term, secured co-ed facility for court involved youth.

**Norfolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority (NRHA):** A Governmental entity assisting the city with conservation and redevelopment activities, property rehabilitation, management of public housing programs, and services and programs for low and moderate income families within Norfolk communities.

**Nuisance Abatement:** The process to remedy code violations identified as an annoyance, inconvenience, or may present a public health and safety concern.

**Objective:** It describes something to be accomplished in specific, well-defined and measurable terms and is achievable within a specific timeframe.

**One-time:** a nonrecurring revenue or expenditure within the current fiscal year.

**Operating Budget:** An annual financial plan of operating expenditures of the General Fund, Enterprise Funds, Internal Service Funds, and the approved means of financing them. The operating budget is the primary tool by which most of the financing, acquisition, spending and service delivery activities of a government are planned and controlled.

**Operating Revenues and Expenditures:** Operating revenues and expenditures result from providing services and/or producing and delivering goods in connection with a fund's principal ongoing operations.

**Ordinance:** A formal legislative enactment by the City Council, which has the full force and effect of law within the boundaries of the city.

**Outcome Measure:** The results of an activity, plan, process, or program and their comparison with the intended or projected results.

**Parking Facilities Fund:** A fund used to account for the operations of the city-owned parking facilities.

**Permanent Part-Time Position:** A position regularly scheduled for no more than 30 hours per week.

**Permanent Fund:** A governmental fund type used to report resources legally restricted to earnings, not principal, to be used for purposes supporting the reporting government's programs.

**Personal Property Tax:** Taxes assessed each year by the Commissioner of Revenue's (COR) Office for all tangible personal property located within the City of Norfolk. A major set of tangible personal property taxed are motor vehicles.

**Personnel Services:** Compensation for direct labor of persons in the employment of the city and/or salaries and wages paid to employees for full-time, part-time, and temporary work, including overtime, shift differential, and similar compensation. The Personnel Services account group also includes fringe benefits paid for employees.

**Proposed Budget:** The budget formally submitted by the City Manager to the City Council for its consideration.

**Proprietary Fund:** A fund that accounts for operations similar to those in the private sector. This includes the enterprise funds and internal service funds. The focus is on determination of net income, financial position and changes in financial position.

**Public Assistance:** Federal, state and local programs that provide a safety net (i.e. housing, medical assistance, money) for disadvantaged groups who lack the resources to provide basic necessities for themselves and their families.

**Public Amenities Fund:** A Special Revenue fund designated for tourism and visitor destination, improvements to existing cultural and entertainment facilities, and planning and preparation for new venues. Revenues derived from one percentage point of the meals and hotel taxes.

**Public-Private Partnership:** A contractual agreement between the city and a private sector entity for the provision of public services or infrastructure. Through this agreement, the skills and assets of each sector (public and private) are shared in delivering a service or facility for the use of the general public. Rather than completely transferring public assets to the private sector, as with privatization, government and business work together to provide services with each party sharing in the risks and rewards potential in the delivery of the service and/or facility.

**Purchased Services:** Services, under contract with the city, provided to an individual or group of individuals by an enterprise.

**Real Property Taxes:** Revenue derived from the tax assessed on residential, commercial or industrial property.

**Reserve:** An amount set aside in a fund balance to provide for expenditures from the unencumbered balances of continuing appropriations, economic uncertainties, future apportionments, and pending salary or price increase appropriations and appropriations for capital outlay projects.

**Resources:** Factors of production or service in terms of information, people, materials, capital, facilities, and equipment.

**Revenue:** The yield from various sources of income such as taxes the city collects and receives into the treasury for public use.

**Revenue Anticipation Notes:** A short-term debt security issued on the premise future revenues will be sufficient to meet repayment obligations. Securities are repaid with future expected revenues from the completed project which may come from sources like tolls or facility ticket sales.

**Revenue Bonds:** Limited liability obligations where revenues derived from the respective acquired or constructed assets are pledged to pay debt service.

**Rolling Stock:** The total number of vehicles and equipment in the city's fleet (i.e. tractors, trailers, boats)

**Server:** A computer program that provides services to other computer programs in the same or other computers.

**Service:** The on-going sequence of specific tasks and activities representing a continuous and distinct benefit provided to internal and external customers.

**Service Quality:** The manner or technique by which an activity was undertaken, and the achievement of a desirable end result (i.e. when filling a pothole there should be a service quality standard for how long that pothole should stay filled). Efficiency and effectiveness should be achieved within the context of a service quality standard. Measuring any one of these without the other two can cause problems in terms of getting an accurate assessment of performance.

**Shared Expenses:** Revenue received from the state for its share of expenditures in activities considered to be a state/local responsibility. Sources include the state's share of Norfolk Public Schools, Commonwealth's Attorney, Sheriff, Commissioner of the Revenue, Treasurer, Medical Examiner, and Registrar/Electoral Board expenditures.

**Short-term Goals:** Identified expectations the organization has targeted to reach over a time period between one and three years.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP):** Provides financial assistance for food purchasing to low- and no-income individuals and families living in the United States. It is a federal aid program administered by the Food and Nutrition Service of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and benefits are distributed by the individual states.

**Standards of Quality (SOQ):** The statutory framework that establishes the minimal requirements for educational programs for Virginia public schools.

**Staffing & Organization Redesign (SOR) Initiative:** The effort to evaluate and appropriately allocate staff and positions throughout departments to improve productivity.

**Special Revenue Funds:** Funds used to account for the proceeds of specific financial resources (other than expendable trusts or major capital projects) requiring separate accounting because of legal or regulatory provisions or administrative action. The individual Special Revenue funds are Cemeteries, Emergency Preparedness and Response, Golf Operations, Public Amenities, Storm Water Utility, and Towing & Recovery.

**Southeastern Public Service Authority (SPSA):** The organization that manages and operates solid waste transportation, processing and disposal programs and facilities for Norfolk, Portsmouth, Virginia Beach, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Franklin, Isle of Wight, and Southampton County.

**Storm Water Best Management Practice (BMP):** Methods designed to control storm water runoff incorporating sediment control and soil stabilization. Norfolk employs both structural (retention ponds) and nonstructural (education) methods of reducing the quantity and improving the quality of storm water runoff.

**Storm Water Fund:** A fund established to account for the operations of the city-owned environmental storm water management system.

**Strategic Planning:** The continuous and systematic process whereby guiding members of the city make decisions about its future, and develop procedures and operations to achieve the future to determine how success will be measured.

**Strategic Priority:** Defined City Council guidance regarding broad service area goals.

**Surplus:** The excess of an entity's or fund's assets over its liabilities (see also fund balance). The excess of revenues over expenditures or expenses during a single budget year.

**Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF):** A block grant program to states that was designed to reform the nation's welfare system by moving recipients into work, promoting self-sufficiency and turning welfare into a program of temporary assistance.

**Tax Base:** All forms of wealth taxable under the city's jurisdiction.

**Tax Increment Financing (TIF):** A public method used to finance infrastructure projects through future gains in tax revenue within a designated district established by a City Council ordinance. These tax revenues are projected to grow as a result of the increase in the value of real estate within the designated district.

**Technical Adjustment:** A routine budget action occurring at the beginning of each budgetary cycle to adjust costs for such items as personnel (i.e. healthcare, retirement), contractual increase, prorated funding, and internal service fund charges.

**Tipping Fee:** The charge levied upon the quantity (calculated in tonnage) of waste received at a waste processing facility.

**Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL):** A comprehensive pollution prevention initiative that has rigorous accountability measures (waste load allocations) to restore clean water in the Chesapeake Bay and its watershed.

**Transaction:** As pertains to the voter registrar, transaction is a measure of the number of computerized entries necessary to maintain voter registration and election records. Transaction totals vary depending on the number of elections and the quantity of voter initiated activity.

**United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):** The federal agency that leads the anti-hunger effort with the Food Stamp, School Lunch, School Breakfast, and the Women, Infants & Children (WIC) Programs.

**Vector Borne:** A disease or illness from an animal or insect that transmits a disease-producing organism from one host to another.

**Vector Control:** An effort to maintain order over animals and insects that transmit disease-producing organism from one to another.

**Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT):** The state agency responsible for building, maintaining, and operating the state's roads, bridges, and tunnels.

**Vision:** An objective statement that describes an entity's most desirable future state. An organizational vision employs the skills, knowledge, innovation and foresight of management and the workforce to communicate effectively the desired future state.

**Virginia Municipal League (VML):** A statewide, nonpartisan nonprofit association of city, town and county governments established to improve and assist local governments through legislative advocacy, research, education and other services.

**Virginia Pollution Discharge & Elimination System (VPDES):** A permit from the state to discharge storm water to natural bodies of water since storm water, unlike sewage, is not treated.

**Wastewater Utility Fund:** A fund established to account for the operations of the city-owned wastewater system.

**Water Utility Fund:** A fund established to account for operations of the city-owned water system.

**Working Capital:** Current assets minus current liabilities. Working capital measures how much in liquid assets an entity has available to build its business or activity.

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